



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

07/23/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP RESERVOIR~ COMMITTEE

JULY 23,~2011 MEETING At Reservoir Wildlife Habitat Garden

In attendance:~ Cathy Garnett, Lisa Fredman, Martine Gougault, Jane Howard, Rachel James, Elizabeth Karpati, Jim Marzilli, Stefan Miller, Joanne Sullivan, David White.

Facilitator:~ David White. **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

Next meeting:~ 9:00-9:30 am **Saturday, Sept. 10** at Reservoir Wildlife Habitat Garden.

1. Financial Report~ The original donation was \$3000; \$2000 more received from Conservation Stewardship fund and \$800 from individuals.~ Expenses:~ \$1155 for siltation socks, \$1,980 for top soil and mulch, \$965 for plants, \$272 for permit application materials. We now have about \$1400 left plus a credit of \$500 with the NEWFS for plants.~~~~

2. DPW Support - We owe a big Thank You to DPW:~ They not only prepared the site initially, but have also provided both labor and funding for the water line. They will also be managing the water chestnut harvesting (see below).

3. Additional plantings - To be done in the fall.~ A "wish list" has already been circulated.~ Some more possibilities were mentioned: native azaleas (Jane has), Solomon's seal (Elizabeth has), bulbs like native allium;~ brunnera, Virginia bluebells, native geranium and columbine.~ Also~ a few shrubs for winter structure, e.g. juniper, witch hazel, fothergilla, clethra, allspice.~ The Lowell Street side of the garden is fairly sunny now but will become shaded by the Kentucky coffee trees (*Gymnocladus dioica*) in the middle. **Jim, Martine and Cathy** will work on this.

4. Summer Watering - A summer watering schedule was established, with a different person to water each week if it doesn't rain enough. At the end of each week the person who watered should contact next week's person to update them on what was done.

5. Water Chestnut Harvesting - Aquatic Control Technology (ACT) has been contracted to harvest the water chestnuts from the Res.~ They will be dumped near the parking lot to dry and then removed by DPW.~ Some hand harvesting will be needed around the edges where the water is too shallow for the machines.~ **David** will send out requests for volunteers.

5. Fencing - Although the current wooden stake and clothesline fencing is generally adequate, this may not be the best long term solution. **Cathy** suggested black plastic like that used at Fresh Pond; she will check on the cost.

6. Public information/outreach ~ A big sign for the garden - could Cathy design one?~ Maybe with information about the purpose of the garden?~ Laminated pictures with names of the plants hanging from the big sign or along the fence, rather than labels on the plants.~ Possible Scout project; the Covenant School second graders are also interested, per Martine~ The Menotomy Bird Club could be asked to add pictures of birds likely to be seen.~ **Cathy, Martine, and Rachel** are interested in this.~ **Cathy** plans to draft something for **Town Day which is Sep 17**.

Another idea suggested was to make a calendar with pictures of the flowers in the garden, or cards to sell at Town Day.~ Take pictures this year for use next year. **Lisa** will explore this,

7. Next Meeting – There will be a brief business meeting on September 10 from 9:00 to 9:30 to coordinate activities for Town Day to be followed by planting and weeding.